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Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 3, No. 3 March, 1995 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, California 95608 Phone (916) 965-6851

Keeping Affirmative Action Programs

#32567

Two Californians, Tom Wood and Glynn Custred, recently wrote to California's legislators, asking them to adopt an amendment to our state constitution ending affirmative action programs based on race and gender. This measure would end preferences based on race and gender in government hiring, university admissions, and public contracting. If adopted by the Legislature, it would have to be confirmed by the voters in a statewide vote. The authors hope to have the initiative on the ballot in March, 1996. They say they will mount a petition drive to get it on the ballot if the Legislature fails to do so.

During the next few months, you may well be asked to sign a petition in support of the amendment. We urge you, in the strongest terms, *not to sign that petition!*

Why are affirmative action programs still necessary? Wouldn't it be best just to have a "color blind" society? That might be best if we did indeed have a society that was truly without prejudice. However, prejudice is still widespread and is in fact encouraged and worsened by a number of politicians who seek to ride prejudice to success in their bids for public office.

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Domestic Partnerships in California!

This month's gay/lesbian/bisexual letter is in support of 1995's statewide Domestic Partners Registration Bill, A.B. 627, introduced for the second year in a row by California State Assemblymember Richard Katz. Last year's version of his bill, A.B. 2810, was approved by the Legislature but vetoed by the Governor.

A.B. 627 would provide procedures for people to register their domestic partnerships—and officially dissolve them later should they wish. It would also provide equal protection for domestic partners in regard to health care, facility visitation, and conservatorship. In addition, it makes it easier to will property to domestic partners by adding them to the standard statutory will form. A.B. 627 makes it easier for domestic partners to take responsibility for themselves and their family members.

This bill will be heard and voted on in the Assembly Judiciary Committee in late March or early April. Please write to the member of the committee shown in the enclosed letter. Urge him or her to vote for A.B. 627. It would also be wonderful if you wrote a short note to the editor of your local newspaper in support of the bill. Legislators review letters to the editor published in their district and such letters do indeed affect how legislators vote. In your letter you might want to stress that A.B. 627 helps domestic partners accept and take full responsibility for their own lives.

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected
January, 1995 2,171 letters
Dollars Spent
January, 1995 $3,289
Can You Help?
Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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Shawn Todd, San Diego, (619) 291-2371

Staff

Administrator: Boyce Hinman, (916) 965-6851, boyceh1021@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Stefan Grünwedel, (916) 632-4457, sgprima@aol.com
Legislative Analyst, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Issues: Vacant
Legislative Analyst, HIV/AIDS Status Issues: Joe Heller, (916) 454-0411, jrheller@csus.edu
Legislative Analyst, People of Color Issues: Denise Okamoto, (916) 441-6785
Legislative Analyst, Women's Issues: Catherine Borger, (510) 528-3582, cborger@uclink3.berkeley.edu

Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP Code _____

Phone _____

Mail to LLP, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

☐ *Yes, I want to make a donation to help LLP continue its important work. (Appreciated but not required.)*

☐ $10 ☐ $20* ☐ $30 ☐ other $_____

(*Actual cost to LLP for you to receive 44 letters in one year.)

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Corporate Benefactors ($250–$350)

Faces of Sacramento

Sacramento-Area Announcement

Eat Pancakes and Support Lambda Letters at the Same Time!

On Sunday, March 19th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can enjoy a pancake breakfast at Faces in Sacramento (2000 K Street) for only $1 a plate! The purpose of the event is to raise seed money for the Lambda Freedom Fair in June. Faces has invited various organizations to provide waiters for the event, each of whom can keep 25 cents of every dollar's worth of pancakes they sell. Boyce Hinman will be there representing Lambda Letters. So come and support both Lambda Letters and the Lambda Freedom Fair with each bite!

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3½" × 2") $10 per issue
Quarter-page ads $20 per issue
Half-page ads $30 per issue
Full-page ads $50 per issue

Send payment and your camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, to:
Lambda Letters Project
6212 Silverton Way
Carmichael, CA 95608
Deadline is the 25th of each month.

Affirmative Action Assailed

Continued from page 1

As a result, women and minorities are still far from having equal access to jobs and to the education necessary to qualify for those jobs. Affirmative action programs are still essential to give them equal access to these essential ingredients to a secure economic future.

Here are some facts that support this view. According to California NOW, women are more than 90 percent of the workers in such low-paying occupations as secretaries, nurses, bookkeepers, accounting clerks, and child care providers. Men still dominate the high-paying occupations such as architects, engineers, physicians, lawyers, and the skilled crafts. Only 14 percent of judges in California are women. Women comprise less than 11 percent of full professors, 10 percent of college and university presidents, and 20 percent of college trustees.

A survey by the U.S. Department of Labor of 94 Fortune 1,000 companies found that only 16 percent of managers, and only 6.6 percent of executives, were women—and fewer than 2.6 percent were minorities. Some people affirm that white males have been adversely affected by minorities that have taken their jobs; but then where are all the minorities in the high-paying positions?

The California State Census Data Center found that women who do equivalent work to men are often paid less; 40 percent less in retail sales and 25 percent less in administrative support occupations. Women gain only 30 cents per hour in income for five additional years of work experience, while white men gain an additional $1.20 per hour for the same years of work experience.

Minorities face similar circumstances. A 1992 report of the California Senate Office of Research indicated that Latinos make up 37.5 percent of equipment operators, 55.5 percent of laborers, and 33.6 percent of service workers, but only 5.6 percent of professional jobs. Another 1992 study reported that black men with a college degree earn, on average, $798 for every $1,000 earned by their white counterparts.

Affirmative action is still needed to correct this situation. If the radical right succeeds in destroying affirmative action programs, they will have the courage and organization to go after the laws that protect lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and people with HIV/AIDS. They will *not* hesitate to do so. Please do not sign the petition to end affirmative action.

HIV/AIDS Issue

AIDS Funding at the State Level

In our last two letters we have written to members of Congress urging budgetary support for HIV/AIDS activities at the federal level. This month we are focusing on the state legislature.

Despite the fact that Governor Wilson has submitted an essentially flat AIDS budget request for 1995–96, the legislature can raise or lower the appropriated amounts, and we need more spending because of the increased size of the epidemic. In addition, Wilson has consistently threatened to cut health services and various MediCal benefits. He will do the same this year. These funds are essential to many persons living with AIDS and the legislature must fight the governor on this issue.

We all know that the last elections dramatically changed the political power structure in both the country and the state. California is also expected to be coming out of its economic slump. These factors make our work and your letters even more important. We will have more of an uphill battle in convincing politicians to spend money on HIV/AIDS funding. Moreover, Wilson *prematurely* wants to give the voters a tax refund!

On your behalf, the Lambda Letters Project has sent a copy of January's letter to many members of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, letting them know that members of California's House delegation had been sent over 500 of these letters from their constituents.

Letter and Article Composer Needed

We are looking for someone in the Sacramento area with good writing skills to spend about 10 hours a month researching possible lesbian/gay/bisexual subjects and then composing sample letters and articles for our newsletter. He or she would need to attend a monthly staff meeting in which each month's subjects are chosen. LLP can provide leads on how to find suitable subjects and advice on writing, if needed. This is a great opportunity for you to influence the subjects we cover. If interested, send us a note with your letters or call Boyce Hinman at (916) 965-6851.

Volunteers Needed for Two Fund-raisers

Two fund-raising events to benefit the Lambda Letters Project are now in the planning stages, and volunteers are needed to help put them on. Last month we asked for volunteers to help present one of the events, a band concert, but got only one reply. We are repeating the plea for volunteers this month in hopes of a better response. If you live in the Sacramento area *please* consider offering your help. We need these fund-raisers to continue our important work, but we can't put on the events without additional help. Please consider volunteering. The two events are as follows:

Band Concert

The Sacramento chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has invited the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Marching Band to perform in Sacramento this coming fall. Profits from the event will be split between Sacramento PFLAG and the Lambda Letters Project.

Sacramento-area volunteers are needed to help produce the event, doing publicity, selling tickets, setting up and decorating the hall, and preparing a meal for the performers. Please help us repay the generosity of Sacramento PFLAG by volunteering to do one of the above tasks. Let us know by enclosing a note with your letters or by calling us at (916) 965-6851. Let's make this a very successful benefit for both Lambda Letters and PFLAG!

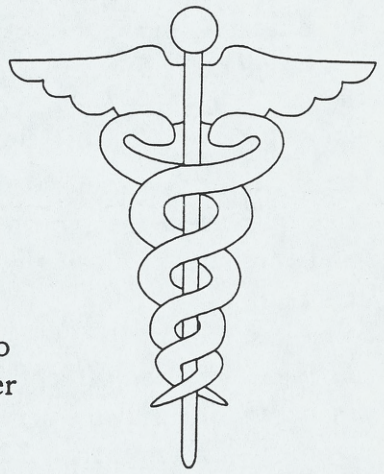
Annual Auction

Lambda Letters will present its annual auction on Sunday afternoon, April 30th. Please plan to attend and bring your donatable items to be auctioned that day. This has always been a fun event and it provides a major part of the income needed to do our important work. The time and place of the event will be announced in our next newsletter.

We need volunteers to help prepare for the event by contacting gay or gay-friendly businesses in the Sacramento area, seeking items to be sold at the auction and to sell ad space in our auction program. Volunteers are also needed to telephone our Sacramento-area members, urging them to attend the event and bring items to be auctioned. Please let us know whether you will be able to help us put on this important and entertaining event.

Support Breast Cancer Research

Fifty thousand women die of breast cancer each year in America; 10 percent of them in California. This means that a woman dies of breast cancer every 11 minutes. You can help end this tragedy. As you complete your state income tax return, please consider making a contribution to breast cancer research here in California. You can do this by completing line 5, part 3 on page 2 of your Form 540A—or line 52, step 10 on side 2 of your Form 540—and indicating the amount you would like to contribute to breast cancer research. If the state owes you a refund, the refund will be reduced by the amount you contribute. If you owe taxes, your obligation will be increased by the amount of your contribution. In either case, your contribution will be tax deductible as a charitable contribution on your federal and state tax returns for next year.



Conflicts Happen...

Resolutions are Created!

Dianne Alyn, Attorney-Mediator
Mediation Legal Services for
Non-Traditional Partnerships & Parenting
Santa Cruz, CA 408-458-2891

Couples, Families, Individuals

Ellie Zacks, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
PSY10426

(916) 334-0667
By Appointment

4811 Chippendale Dr., Suite 901, Sacramento, CA 95841

Women's Issue

Examining Abortion Rights

This month's women's issue is focused on abortion rights in anticipation of upcoming legislation, aimed at restricting access and funding for abortions. As you know, an extreme right-to-life view has taken hold in the House majority, and a slew of measures are expected to be pushed through later this spring, in what the anti-abortion lobby vows will be a "Summer of Life" offensive, which might begin sometime in May.

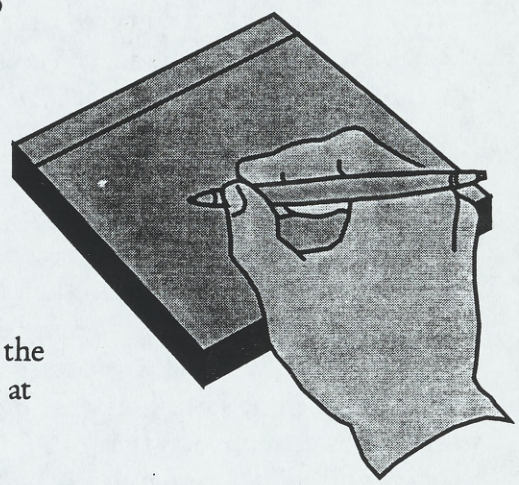
The following anti-abortion bills have been introduced in the House, but are not yet under consideration; they include H.R. 172, 222, 237, 231, 776, and 833. In the Senate, anti-abortion bills S. 209 and 320 have been introduced, but are not yet slated for the floor. From our side, two bills in support of abortion rights—H.R. 833, the Family Planning Amendments Act, and H.R. 641, the Women's Right to Know Act—have been introduced in the House and are currently sitting in committees. It is possible that these bills could sit in committees indefinitely; we will try to keep an eye on them. Since the timing of these bills is still relatively vague, this month's letter is meant to secure your position on abortion rights with your Representative. Voicing your position early is especially important since these bills have a way of sneaking to the floor, without sufficient prior notice.

Here are the latest available figures on where the Congressmembers stand on this issue: the current House lineup is 218 solidly anti-abortion, 140 pro-abortion rights, and 77 mixed; and the Senate count is 45 anti-abortion, 38 pro-abortion, and 17 mixed.

Sacramento-Area Announcement

Help Complete Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Questionnaire

The Northern California Research Group at the University of California at Davis is seeking lesbians, gays, and bisexuals living in the Sacramento area to participate in a study of issues of importance to that community, and to see how they cope with the problems they face in the '90s. The study is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. It only takes about 20 minutes to answer the questionnaire, so it won't take much time at all to provide the Research Group with valuable data. The questionnaire can be completed anonymously at home, too. If you are interested, please call the Research Group at (800) 823-7883.



The letter drafted this month directly addresses some specific components of the upcoming legislation. Please sign the enclosed letter urging your Representative to resist the anti-abortion forces in the House, and to vote in support of upholding women's reproductive freedoms. We may visit this issue again soon!

In Sacramento County (916) 564-8701

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Support for Minority Businesses at Stake

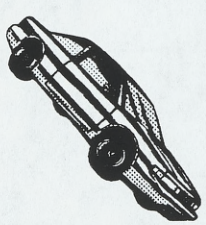
Recently, H.R. 831, authored by Bill Archer (R–TX) and cosponsored by Robert Matsui (D–CA), was passed in the House of Representatives. (Table 1 at right and on the next page shows how your Congressperson voted.) This bill would end a 17-year-old federal program that grants capital gains tax exemptions to companies that sell their broadcast holdings to minority-owned firms. As it is, minorities own less than three percent of broadcast stations. This is a staggering imbalance of power in the area of communications media. Radio and TV shape much of society's attitudes and culture, which lack much of the balance and diversity that can come from minority-owned media.

Viacom, owners of one of the nation's largest cable companies, is in the process of selling its cable holdings to a partnership owned by Frank Washington, an African-American businessman. Mr. Washington's new company would then become the largest minority-owned cable company in the country. However, if H.R. 831 is passed and Viacom's tax breaks nullified, it's unlikely that his offer to Viacom would be as attractive as that of a rival company, so Viacom will sell to someone else.

Many of the laws that attempt to balance unfairness and help financially strengthen the nonwhite population are under attack. H.R. 831 is such a bill. It is the beginning of the dismantling of protective laws that help bar discrimination against people of color and stimulate economic equality for the nonwhite community. Please encourage your senator to vote against H.R. 831!

PINK TRIANGLE TRAFFIC SCHOOL
If you have to go to traffic school
it might as well be
gay/lesbian!

415-541-8599



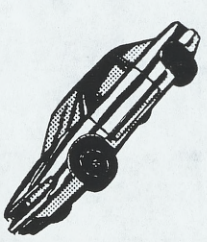
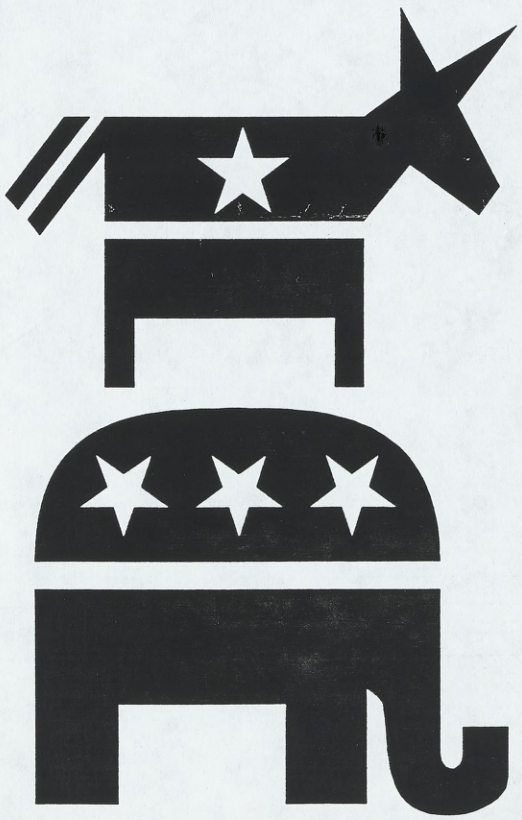


Table 1. House Vote on H.R. 831

Name	Party	Vote
Bill Baker	R	Y
Xavier Becerra	D	N
Anthony Beilenson	D	Y
Howard Berman	D	Y
Brian Bilbray	R	Y
Sonny Bono	R	Y
George Brown	D	Y
Ken Calvert	R	Y
Gary Condit	D	Y
Christopher Cox	R	Y
Randy Cunningham	R	Y
Ronald Dellums	D	N
Julian Dixon	D	N
Calvin Dooley	D	Y
John Doolittle	R	Y
Robert Dornan	R	Y
David Dreier	R	Y
Anna Eshoo	D	Y
Sam Farr	D	Y
Vic Fazio	D	Y
Bob Filner	D	Y
Elton Gallegly	R	No vote
Jane Harman	D	Y
Wally Herger	R	Y
Steve Horn	R	Y
Duncan Hunter	R	Y
Jay Kim	R	Y
Tom Lantos	D	Y
Jerry Lewis	R	Y
Zoe Lofgren	D	Y
Mathew Martinez	D	Y
Robert Matsui	D	Y
Howard McKeon	R	Y
George Miller	D	Y

Table 1. House Vote (cont.)

Name	Party	Vote
Norman Mineta	D	Y
Carlos Moorhead	R	Y
Ron Packard	R	Y
Nancy Pelosi	D	Y
Richard Pombo	R	Y
George P. Radanovich	R	Y
Frank Riggs	R	Y
Dana Rohrabacher	R	Y
Lucille Roybal-Allard	D	N
Edward Royce	R	Y
Andrea Seastrand	R	Y
Fortney Stark	D	Y
Bill Thomas	R	Y
Esteban Torres	D	Y
Walter Tucker	D	N
Maxine Waters	D	N
Henry Waxman	D	Y
Lynn Woolsey	D	Y



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Ken Cody
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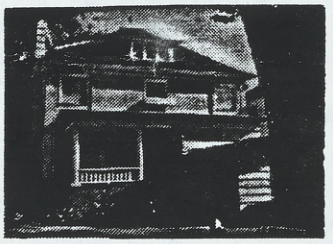

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Sacramento, CA
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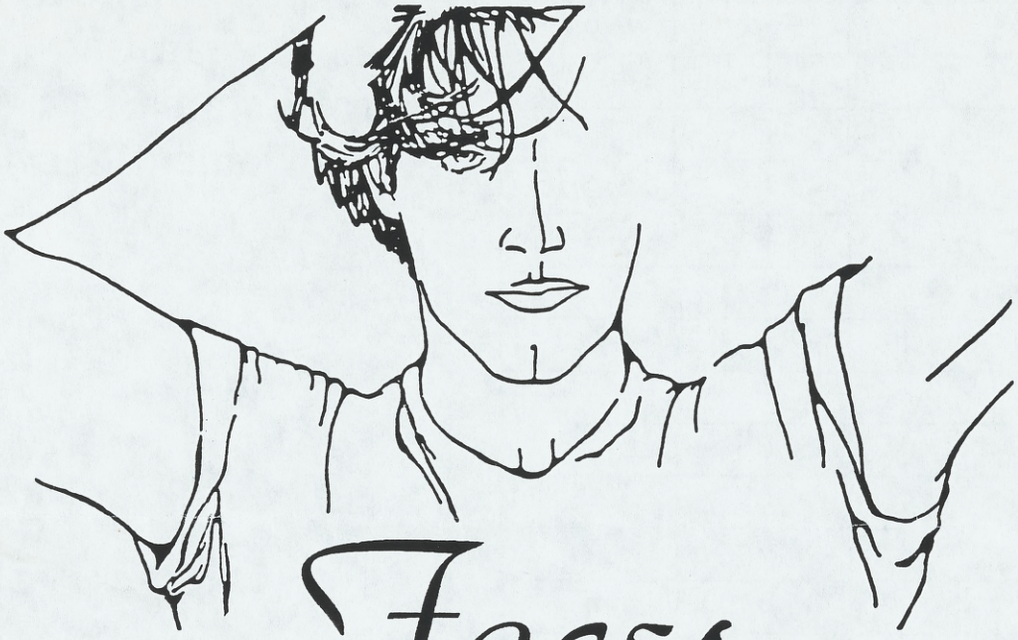

Faces

2000 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 448-7798

Monday - Country dance lessons with Laurie
$100 Cash drawing every Monday night.
Starts 10:00 PM.

Tuesday - Karaoke - Video Bar, $5000 cash
National Contest. Ask for details.

Wednesday - Ladies Night
Country 7:00-10:00 PM
Disco 10:00-2:00 AM

Thursday - Strippers 9:00- 11:00 PM

Friday - Saturday
Disco - 10:00-2:00 AM

Sunday - Barbecue - Open 3:00 PM

In March
Friday March 17th St. Patrick's Day Bash
Sunday March 19th Pancake Breakfast to Benefit Lambda Freedom Fair